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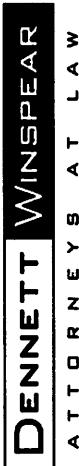
9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

10 FAUSTO A. ESPINO, Plaintiff, Case No: 2:20-cv-01697-JCM-VCF
11 vs. PROGRESSIVE DIRECT INSURANCE
12 COMPANY; PROGRESSIVE CASUALTY
13 INSURANCE COMPANY; DOES 1 through 10,
14 and ROE CORPORATIONS 11 through 20,
15 inclusive,
16 Defendant.

17 COME NOW, the parties above named, by and through counsel, and move the
18 Honorable Magistrate Judge for an Order continuing Discovery and submit the instant Stipulation
19 in accordance with LR 6-1 and LR 26-4. The parties have conferred and agree that an extension
20 of discovery is both necessary and warranted.

21 The parties met and conferred on January 23, 2021 pursuant to FRCP 26(f). The parties
22 have exchanged their respective FRCP Productions. A timely proposed stipulated discovery
23 plan and scheduling order was presented to the Court, and the Court issued its Order Approving
24 Discovery Plan on October 27, 2020 [Doc 11]. The parties have conferred and agree that an
25 additional extension of time in which to complete all remaining discovery is warranted, good
26 cause exists for the extension as detailed herein.

27 An extension of time for discovery is necessary and good cause exists for the extension
28



1 pursuant to Local Rule 26-4. Pursuant to that Rule, the parties submit the following:

2 The parties hereby request that the remaining discovery dates in this matter be continued
3 for ninety days (90) days. This Stipulation is supported by good cause and submitted prior to
4 twenty-one days before the close of discovery.

5 This Stipulation is supported by good cause. Since the Court issued its Order Approving
6 Discovery Plan on October 27, 2020 [Doc 11], Defendant has worked diligently to complete
7 remaining discovery, but was unable to complete all necessary discovery due to the fact that
8 Plaintiff contracted and was suffering from COVID-19 after discovery began in this case, and
9 required lengthy extension of time in order to respond to written discovery, and in order for
10 Plaintiff to execute medical authorizations, which would enable Defendant to obtain his relevant
11 medical records. In fact, Plaintiff's executed medical authorization was received by Defendant's
12 Counsel on February 2, 2021, and Plaintiff only recently served her Responses to written
13 Discovery propounded by Defendants. As such, Defendants have been prevented in completing
14 any additional discovery due to Plaintiff's inability to act and/or meaningfully participate in
15 discovery due to his COVID-19 condition. The parties are now working to complete necessary
16 discovery, but require time in which to do so.

17 Specifically, Defense is working with Plaintiffs' counsel to obtain all necessary medical
18 records (pre and post-accident, as well as for continuing injury claims) so that appropriate
19 medical experts may be retained, and Plaintiff submit to Rule 35 exam as appropriate, but have
20 not been able to obtain all necessary and executed, provider specific medical authorizations,
21 obtain records and schedule Rule 35 exam, and deposition of the Plaintiff due to the fact that
22 Plaintiff was ill and not able to meaningfully participate in discovery until recently, and
23 identification of all necessary medical providers. The parties are working diligently to obtain all
24 necessary records, arrange for Plaintiff to submit to examinations and identify experts in this
25 case.

26 An extension of time in which to complete discovery is necessary, good cause exists for
27 the extension pursuant to Local Rule 26-4 and the request for extension is being made more
28 than twenty-one days prior to the close of discovery. Thus, the parties need time in which to

1 explore these additional issues with respect to Plaintiff's claims, obtain necessary records and
2 conduct necessary depositions of relevant parties in connection with Plaintiff's claims of
3 continuing injury.

4 An extension is also warranted and good cause exists because Defendant has been
5 diligent in its efforts to obtain relevant medical records, billing, and documents (for both pre and
6 post-accident treatment and conditions) but has not yet received the records (only just received
7 executed medical authorizations from Plaintiff [on February 2, 2021] in order to obtain records),
8 and to enable the parties to gather evidence necessary in which to support any request for
9 dispositive relief in this matter, and so that the parties may adequately prepare their case in
10 anticipation of trial.

11 The parties are requesting an extension of those dates so that following receipt of an
12 executed authorization for the release of Plaintiff's relevant pre and post-accident medical
13 treatment records and bills, Defendants are able to obtain Plaintiffs' medical records and bills
14 (and in particular pre-accident records), as well as complete a review and evaluation of Plaintiff's
15 claims in connection with this matter. Thereafter, further time is necessary in order for the
16 parties to provide an expert with relevant records for expert review and evaluation, including pre-
17 accident records and regarding prior medical conditions, followed by an independent medical
18 examination by Defendant's expert[s].

19 This Stipulation and request for extension of discovery dates is made more than twenty-
20 one (21) days before the expiration of the deadline for discovery in this case, which is currently
21 March 12, 2021.

22 (a) **DISCOVERY THAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED:**

23 Counsel for the respective parties participated in a discovery planning conference
24 pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(f). Lists of witnesses and document productions were thereafter
25 exchanged by and between the parties.

26 Following Plaintiff's initial disclosures, Defendant propounded written discovery with
27 Responses thereto served February 1, 2021 (after length extension of time to respond due to
28 Plaintiff's illness), and Defendants are currently working to request medical records from the

1 plaintiff's identified post-accident providers, including requests for medical and billing records,
 2 but need to obtain additional, relevant pre-accident medical providers and regarding continuing
 3 injury, and are currently awaiting receipt of said records in order to retain an expert witness with
 4 respect to Plaintiff's claims.

5 **(b) DISCOVERY THAT REMAINS TO BE COMPLETED:**

6 The parties are currently in the process of conducting written and factual discovery,
 7 followed by depositions of Plaintiff and Defendant. Additionally, the parties anticipate conducting
 8 expert discovery and parties' designations of experts, as well as additional factual and expert
 9 discovery and depositions.

10 **(c) REASONS DISCOVERY WILL NOT BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE TIME LIMITS SET
 BY THE DISCOVERY PLAN:**

11 Defendants are currently in the process of obtaining Plaintiff's medical records and bills
 12 (including pre-accident records), as well as conducting a complete review and evaluation of
 13 Plaintiff's claims in connection with this matter. Further time is necessary in order for the parties
 14 to provide an expert with relevant records for expert review and evaluation, including pre-
 15 accident records and regarding prior medical conditions, followed by an independent medical
 16 examination by Defendant's expert[s]. Efforts to complete discovery in a timely fashion has been
 17 primarily complicated by the fact that the Plaintiff has been ill and unable to meaningfully engage
 18 in discovery. Counsel is working together to complete necessary remaining discovery, but
 19 require additional time in which to do so.

20 **(d) PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETING REMAINING DISCOVERY:**

21 The parties hereby stipulate and request that discovery dates in this matter be continued
 22 for an additional (90) days.
 23

CURRENT DATE	PROPOSED DATE
Close of Discovery: May 12, 2021	Tuesday, August 10, 2021
Amend Pleadings/add parties: February 11, 2021	Wednesday, May 12, 2021
Expert Disclosures: March 12, 2021	Friday, June 11, 2021

1 Rebuttal Experts: April 10, 2021	Monday, July 11, 2021
2 Dispositive Motions: June 11, 2021	Thursday, September 9, 2021
3 Pre-Trial Order: July 12, 2021 ¹	Friday, October 8, 2021 ²

5 DATED: 2/3/216 DATED: 2/4/21

7 HARRIS & HARRIS

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11 **Attorneys for Defendants,**
Progressive Direct Insurance Company;
Progressive Casualty Insurance Company

17 ORDER

18 IT IS SO ORDERED.

19 DATED: 2-5-202120 
U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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26 ¹ In the event dispositive motions are filed, the date for filing the joint pretrial order shall be suspended until 30 days after a decision of the dispositive motions.

27
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